

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for initiating a data session at a remote communication unit currently connected via a voice session, the apparatus comprising:

a cue unit for sending via said voice session to said remote unit a cue decodable as an instruction to start a data session, and

an address unit for providing data session address information to said data session.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said address unit is configured to send said data session address information to said remote communication unit.

3. Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said address unit is further configured to send session identification information together with said data session address information to said remote communication unit.

4. Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said address unit is associated with said cue unit and is configured to send said data session address information along with said cue within said voice session.

5. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said address unit is associated with said cue unit and is configured to send said data session address information and said session identification information along with said cue within said voice session.

6. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said address unit is configured to enter said data session address information along with caller identification information in a database.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said cue is decodable at said remote communication apparatus to access said database, said caller identification information allowing said data session address information to be retrieved from said database to define said data session.

8. Apparatus according to claim 1, further configured to issue a command from said data session to restart said voice session.

9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said command is a dialing action initiator.

10. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data session comprises a menu-based user interface.

11. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data session comprises a graphically-based user interface.

12. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said voice cue comprises a sequence of DTMF tones.

13. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cue unit is operable to send said voice cue to all connecting remote communication devices.

14. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cue unit is associated with a database of communication device identity data to send said voice cue only to a subset of remote communication devices indicated by said database.

15. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cue unit is configured to send said voice cue only if said data session is indicated as being required by said remote communication device.

16. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data session comprises one of a group of applications comprising visual directory assistance, visual shopping and visual voicemail deposit.

17. A client for a smart telephony device capable of supporting a data session, the client comprising:

a decoder for decoding a received voice command to transfer to a data session, and

a data session launcher, associated with said decoder, for launching a data session at said smart telephony device in response to the received voice command.

18. The client of claim 17, wherein the voice command includes encoded data session address information and said decoder is configured to decode the data session address information from said command and for providing the decoded data session address information to said data session launcher.

19. The client of claim 17, wherein said data session launcher is configured to automatically consult a database associated with said received voice session command to associate data session address information with said data session.

20. A method of launching a data session at a remote telephony device that has connected using a voice session, the method comprising:

issuing a data session launch command via said voice session to said remote telephony device, and

issuing data session address information for use in association with a data session launched in consequence of said command.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising sending said data session address information to said remote telephony device together with said command as part of said voice session.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising sending session identification information together with said data session address information to said remote telephony device.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising placing said data session address information in a database and indexing said data session address information with caller identification information.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising accessing said database using said caller identification information of said remote telephony device to obtain said data session address information.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising initiating a data session with said obtained data session address information.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein said data session comprises a menu-based user interface.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein said data session comprises a graphically-based user interface.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein said data session comprises a user selection option available to a user at said remote communication unit to return said data session to a voice session.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said user selection option comprises a command for activating a dialing action at said remote communication unit.

30. The method of claim 20, wherein said data session launch command is a voice cue comprising a sequence of DTMF tones.

31. The method of claim 20, comprising sending said data session launch command to all connecting remote communication devices.

32. The method of claim 20, comprising using a database of communication device identity data to send said data session launch command only to a subset of remote communication devices indicated by said database.

33. The method of claim 20, comprising sending said data session launch command only if said data session is indicated as being required by said remote communication device.

34. The method of claim 20, wherein said data session operates one of a group of applications comprising visual directory assistance, visual shopping and visual voicemail deposit.